Library

WINSLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1958

July 1958

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

To the Chairman & Councillors of the
Winslow Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the health and vital statistics of the Winslow Rural District for the year 1958, together with the report of the Chief Public Health Officer and Surveyor.

The total number of notifications of infectious disease received was 134. There was an increase of seventy eight over the previous year. It was largely due to the increase of measles notifications. Serious notifications such as enteritis, meninigitis, or poliomyelitis did not occur during the year, nor was there a case of tuberculosis notified. Despite the efforts of the Council in supporting private building and encouraging industrial development, the population remains essentially rural in charactor. The general health of the inhabitants is good, and compares favourably with the rest of the country. New sewerage schemes are in being and envisaged. Although the number of houses owned by the Council has steadily increased, there is still a housing shortage, and many sub-standard dwellings in the district. The latter are gradually being diminished by the aid of "Improvement Grants".

I am pleased to express my thanks to the Chairman and Councillors for their kind assistance and advice, also to the Public Health Staff generally who by their commendable work throughout the year have made this report possible.

I am,

Ladies & gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS FOR 1956

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. J.T.C. Sims-Roberts, M.B. Ch.B. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Barrister at Law.
Medical Officer under Poor Law Acts	Dr. P.F. Rudd, M.B. Ch.B. L.R.C.P.,
Public Health Inspector & Surveyor	Mr. N.J. Shipp, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	Mr. D.A. Keen, C.R.S.I.
Public Health Clerk	Mrs. F.V. Anderson.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1958

			1957	1958
Live Births:	Legitimate	Males	64	59
		Females	69	58
		Total	133	117
	Illegitimate	Males	4	4
		Females	1	2
		Total	5	6
Still Births:	Legitimate	Males	2	-
		Females	3	-
		Total	5	-
	Illegitimate	Males	-	-
		Females	-	-
		Total	-	-
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..			17.87	15.73
Birth Rate (corrected)			20.19	17.77
Total (live and still) Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..			18.53	15.73
Birth Rate for England & Wales ..			16.1	16.4
Deaths:		Males	55	42
		Females	48	64
		Total	103	106
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..			13.34	13,55
Standardised Death Rate			8.67	9.21
Death Rate for England & Wales			11.5	11.7
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:				
	Legitimate	Males	2	-
		Females	1	3
		Total	3	3
	Illegitimate	Males	-	-
		Females	-	-
(Death rates cont.)		Total	-	-
All infants per 1,000 live births			21.74	24.39
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			22.56	25.64
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-	-

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year 134 cases were notified.

	1957	1958
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-
Measles	41	127
Pneumonia	2	4
Whooping Cough	4	-
Scarlet Fever	3	3

No cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified.

Food Poisoning No cases notified during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

Hospital accommodation for the district is provided by the Royal Bucks and Tindal General Hospitals Aylesbury. Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital or one of the Isolation Hospitals in the Oxford Group.

These three Hospitals are administered by the Aylesbury and District Hospitals Management Committee.

Cases are admitted to Stoke Mandeville or the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, if bed space is unavailable.

Similarly, infectious disease cases are admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospitals within the Oxford Region when there is no accommodation locally.

Pathological Specimens

The majority of specimens for examination are submitted to the Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The services of the Public Health Laboratories at Luton and Oxford are utilised whenever necessary.

Ambulance Services

The ambulance services in the area are the responsibility of the Bucks County Council. Eight ambulances are stationed in the Borough of Aylesbury for the use of the town and surrounding districts. Included in this number four are sitting case ambulances.

Maternity and Child Welfare

This service is controlled by the Bucks County Council.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Great Horwood, Stewkley and Winslow, and a Mobile Centre visits Mursley, Newton Longville, Shenley and Swanbourne.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation

The Bucks County Council being the Local Health Authority as defined by the National Health Service Act 1946 administer this service.

Treatment of Venereal Disease

A Venereal Disease Clinic is held regularly at the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, where free treatment is given. This clinic is administered by the Aylesbury and District Hospital Management Committee.

		1957	1958
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:			
Legitimate	Males	2	-
	Females	1	3
	Total	3	3
Illegitimate	Males	-	-
	Females	-	-
	Total	-	-

Area (in acres)	36,420
Population	7,820
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December 1958 (according to Rate Book)	2,563
Rateable Value (31st December 1958)	£59,883
Sum represented by Penny Rate (31st March 1958)	£236-9-1

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

Infective and parasitic diseases	1.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5.
Malignant neoplasm, bronchus	3.
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3.
Other malignant neoplasms	7.
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13.
Coronary disease, angina	13.
Hypertension with heart disease	1.
Other heart disease	30.
Other circulatory disease	4.
Influenza	2.
Pneumonia	3.
Bronchitis	2.
Other diseases of respiratory system	1.
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1.
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1.
Congenital malformations	2.
Other defined and ill defined diseases	8.
Motor vehicle accidents	1.
All other accidents	5.
	106.

National Assistance Act, 1948 Section 47
Removal of persons in need of Care and Attention

During the year it was not found necessary to remove anyone to hospital under the above Act.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1958. Work on the Granborough sewerage scheme forms the main item of interest for the year. A scheme of this nature greatly improves the sanitary conditions for a parish doing away with offensive sewer ditches and enabling many more people to avail themselves of modern sanitary facilities. When the Swanbourne scheme is completed it will mean that all the major parishes in the district are covered by a proper sewerage scheme.

Much valuable time was given up during the year by the Chairman and members of the Council in attending Sub-Committee meetings dealing with matters concerning this department, and I would express my thanks for the co-operation and help given.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year work started on the Granborough sewerage scheme and was well underway by the end of the year. The completion of this scheme will mean that some of the worst sewer ditches and old sewers in the district will shortly be done away with.

In addition to the above it is pleasing to recall that during the year work began on the preparation of a scheme for sewering the village of Swanbourne and for dealing with the inadequate disposal plant at Mursley. Progressive measures such as these will go a long way towards lessening polution in the Ouse Catchment Area and will, it is to be hoped, assist in preventing the stagnation of development in the district.

The Council's existing plants have continued to function satisfactorily and samples of the effluents have been taken by the River Boards.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection & Disposal

In May of last year completely revised collection schedules were introduced and I am happy to say that these have resulted in the complete abolition of regular overtime. The old collection schedules had been in use for over ten years and due to expansion in various parts of the district regular overtime had been necessary during the latter years to maintain the service.

Surprisingly few complaints are received from the public and in most cases I am pleased to report that the fault does not lie with the collection team.

During the year investigations continued into the possibility

of acquiring a new tip and at the present date it appears that an ideal solution to the problem may shortly be found.

With one vehicle and a kerbside collection to operate it is sometimes difficult to ensure that every parish gets its regular collection but I am pleased to say that despite the difficulties which arise from time to time this has been maintained.

Streets Cleansing - Winslow

The only highways cleansed by the Council are as follows and these together with the Market Square are done at the latter end of each week:-

(a) High Street.
(b) Station Road.
(c) Buckingham Road.
(d) Sheep Street.
(e) Horn Street.

Salvage

The value of salvage during the year amounted to £68-0-6.

Paper	Metals
£53-14-5	£14-6-1.

RODENT CONTROL

General Inspections and Treatments

During the year the following inspections and treatments were carried out:-

	Inspected	Treated
Local Authority Properties.....	46.	27.
Dwellinghouses	505.	106.
Agricultural Properties	122.	23.
Business Premises	45.	2.

Sewer Treatments

During the year the sewers in the district were treated as follows:-

(a) 10% Testing carried out in April.
(b) First Maintenance Treatment carried out in April.
(c) Second Maintenance Treatment carried out in December.

Generally speaking the sewers in parts of the district are only very slightly infested.

HOUSING

Council Houses

The number of houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was as follows:-

Pre-War	Post-War	Total
234	337	571

The maintenance of these houses continues to be one of the major functions of my department taking up the biggest proportion of time. The defects and other jobs reported and dealt with during the year number well over a thousand and these vary in size from a job taking a matter of minutes to one taking several days. At the present time defects etc. are being reported at an average rate of about four per day.

Unfit Houses

(a) Number of houses demolished during the year ..... 1.

(b) Number of houses closed during the year ..... 1.

Improvement Grants

During the year the Council agreed to make grants totalling £ 1653.

(a) Number of applications received ..... 9.

(b) Number of applications approved ..... 8.

(c) Number of applications refused ..... 1.

Every property dealt with was inspected by a Sub-Committee of Council Members together with myself and each was thoroughly investigated.

The details relating to applications dealt with to 31/12/58.

(a) Total Number of applications received ..... 39.

(b) Total number of applications approved .... 34.

(c) Total number of applications refused ..... 4.

(d) Total number of applications withdrawn ..... 1.

(e) Total grants approved to 31st December 1958 .....£6023.

FOOD

Meat Inspection

There are three licenced slaughterhouses in the district all of which carry out regular slaughtering.

During the year 332 visits were made and the number of animals inspected and amount of meat condemned is shown in the table set out below:-

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	238	5	39	637	465	-
Number inspected	234	5	39	627	459	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	6	-	-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
Carcases of which some part or organ were condemned.	35	-	-	13	6	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15%	-	-	3%	1.3%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	-	8	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.3%	-	-	-	1.7%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	NIL	NIL	-	-	NIL	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	NIL	NIL	-	-	NIL	-
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	NIL	-	-	NIL	-

Total meat and offal unfit for human consumption 993-lbs.

<u>Milk</u>

The sampling of milk in the district is undertaken by the Food and Drugs Authority and samples taken during the year indicated the presence of brucella abortus on numerous farms and smallholdings. In all these cases the milk was diverted for pasteurisation.

The following milk licences were issued during the year:-

Dealer's Licence - Tuberculin Tested ..... 9.

Dealer's Licence - Pasteurised ..... 9.

Supplementary Licence - Tuberculin Tested ..... 5.

Supplementary Licence - Pasteurised ..... 5.

There are twelve Distributors of milk registered in the area and seven dairies.

Section 16. Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The numbers of food premises registered under the above Act is as follows:-

(a) the sale or storage of ice cream intended for sale ... 23.

(b) the preparation or manufacture of sausages etc..... 6.

At one shop a cold mix ice cream is made up for sale. All the others sell pre-packed brands. .

Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned meat is disposed of to local kennels and any other types of food either buried or burnt on the refuse tip.

Food Hygiene Regulations

There are 82 food premises (inlcuding Public Houses) in the district and where the regulations are not being complied with in all respects owners are proceeding to have the necessary work done.

Fortunately the majority of shops are small family concerns and the hygiene arrangements are adequately catered for.

WATER SUPPLIES

Water supply throughout the district is provided by the Bucks Water Board.

I am indebted to the Bucks Water Board for the following information.

1. Supply throughout the area has been at all times satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

2. Raw water is sampled at approximately monthly intervals. All reports have been satisfactory.

3. Samples of the water from the distributing mains serving this district are taken monthly. All have been satisfactory.

4. Chemical samples are taken quarterly at the source. All satisfactory.

5. There is no tendency to plumbo-solvency.

Water Samples (Taken by R.D.C.)

During the year six water samples were taken. The results of the bacteriological examinations showed two to be satisfactory and four to be unsatisfactory. One of these properties has been connected to the main and action has been taken in the other cases to secure an improvement.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The following factories are registered in the district.

	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occups. Pros.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7.	7.	NIL.	NIL.
Factories not included in the above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	14.	8.	NIL.	NIL.
	21.	15.	NIL.	NIL.

In one case action was taken to secure cleanliness. (Section 1.).